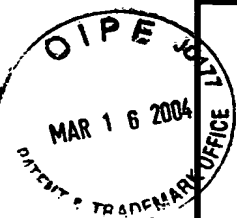


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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to:
Commission for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/873,206
Filing Date	June 5, 2001
First Named Inventor	YAMAMOTO et al
Art Unit	3742
Examiner Name	Tu Ba Hoang
Attorney Docket Number	NIPPO.0001

RECEIVED

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2004

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on _____
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other Request for Priority

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-1480
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ check in the amount of 770.00 enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)
- Warning: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Juan Carlos A. Marquez	Registration NO. (attorney/agent)	34,072
Name (Print/Type)	Stanley P. Fisher	Registration NO. (attorney/agent)	24,344
Signature		Date	March 16, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the United States and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Signature	Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

03/17/2004 CNGUYEN 00000076 09873206

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